

Message Text

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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV US UK ZA RH

SUBJ: ZAMBIANS MAY BE PREPARING TO CRITICIZE CARVER/CHAND
MISSION

SUMMARY. ZAMBIANS GAVE CARVER AND CHAND HIGH LEVEL PUBLICITY AND SUBJECTED THEM TO LENGTHY POLITICAL TYPE QUESTIONING IN MEETINGS LASTING MUCH OF MONDAY EVENING. THEY THEN ASKED FOR A FURTHER MEETING TUESDAY MORNING TO GIVE THEIR (UNSOLICITED) "RESPONSE". WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE WHOLE OPERATION MAY BE AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE OUR "FAILURE" TO CARRY OUT OWEN'S AND YOUNG'S COMMITMENT TO BRING SMITH DOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. SOMEWHAT TO OUR SURPRISE, THE ZAMBIANS HAVE LAID ON MEETINGS WITH CARVER AND CHAND IN A BIG WAY. THEY FIRST SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE AND A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, WITH HEAVY NEWS AND TV COVERAGE. MWALE CONFINED HIMSELF TO ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT CARVER AND CHAND'S PRESENTATION.

2. THE SESSION IN THE CABINET ROOM AT STATE HOUSE WITH KAUNDA, SECRETARY GENERAL ZULU, PRIME MINISTER CHONA, ARMY COMMANDER ZUZE, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LISULE, FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE, MARK CHONA, ETC., LASTED AN HOUR AND A HALF. IT STARTED WITH A
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RATHER SHORT PRESENTATION BY CARVER, LIMITED LARGELY TO THE MILITARY ASPECT OF CEASEFIRE MATTERS. HE CONFIRMED THE LAW AND ORDER STATEMENT FORMULA OF BASING THE INDEPENDENCE ARMY ON THE LIBERATION FORCES AND EMPHASIZED THAT THERE COULD BE NO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNLESS WE PROVIDED A PLACE IN THE INDEPENDENT COUNTRY'S SOCIETY FOR THE FIGHTING FORCES OF THE PF.

3. CARVER MENTIONED THE NEED FOR LIAISON AND OBSERVER GROUPS VISITING NATIONALIST LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF RHODESIA AND ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD POSE ANY PROBLEMS TO ZAMBIA. PREM CHAND ENTHUSIASTICALLY TOOK UP THE POINT. KAUNDA TURNED THE QUESTIHN ASIDE, ASKING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT TO SALISBURY, WHICH CARVER GAVE IN CAREFUL OUTLINE, DESCRIBING THE GENERAL LACK OF GIVE IN THE RHODESIAN POSITION.

4. MWALE, MAINZA CHONA AND MARK CHONA THEN PROCEEDED TO GRILL CARVER POLITELY ON ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL SUBJECTS. THEY ASKED WHY WE WERE TREATING THE PF AND THE RHODESIAN REGIME AS EQUALS WHEN ONE WAS A REBEL AND THE OTHER FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE; WHY WE WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THE RHODESIANS WHEN THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR PROPOSALS WERE NON-NEGOTIABLE; WHETHER THE TIMETABLE OF OUR PLAN OF ACTION WAS NOT SLIPPING; WHY WE WERE INSISTING ON DISCUSSIONS OF CEASEFIRE BEFORE THE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD WERE DECIDED; HOW AND WHEN WE WERE GOING TO GET RID OF SMITH.

5. CARVER HELD HIS GROUND WELL, DENYING COMPETENCE IN AREAS OUTSIDE OF CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITION PERIOD. WEIR AND I PITCHED IN ON THE POLITICAL SUBJECTS. CHAND RETURNED TO THE MATTER OF LIAISON AND OBSERVER GROUPS IN ZAMBIA, SOMEWHAT TO THE IRRITATION OF THE ZAMBIANS WHO CONSIDERED THE QUESTION PREMATURE. HE DROPPED IT WHEN KAUNDA SAID THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE UN, ZAMBIA WOULD EXAMINE THE SETTLEMENT AND DECIDE THEN WHETHER TO SUPPORT
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IT OR NOT.

6. WHEN THE QUESTIONS RAN OUT, KAUNDA ANNOUNCED THAT AFTER DINNER THE ZAMBIANS WOULD CAUCUS AND DECIDE ON A REPLY TO GIVE US. CARVER SAID HE HAD HOPED TO LEAVE BY 10 TOMORROW MORNING, SO KAUNDA AGREED THAT WE WOULD CONVENE AGAIN AT 8 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING.

7. COMMENT: I MAY BE OVERLY APPREHENSIVE, BUT I HAVE A STRONG IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE BEING SET UP FOR A DRUBBING TOMORROW. IT IS MY GUESS THAT THE ZAMBIANS WILL ANNOUNCE TO US THAT THEY HAVE STUDIED OUR APPROACH TO THE PROPOSALS AND FOUND THEM LACK-ING. HOW MUCH BEYOND THIS THEY WILL GO I CANNOT TELL; THEY MAY WELL FOLLOW OUR MEETING WITH A PRESS STATEMENT TO THE SAME EFFECT, THOUGH THIS WOULD BE SURPRISING WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH OTHER FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS.

8. CARVER IS PREPARED. HE WILL STICK TO HIS SUBJECTS. HIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE HAVE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH SMITH AND IF WE CAN'T GET THAT, THE GAME IS OFF SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED. HIS MANDATE COMES FROM THE PHRASE IN THE LAW AND ORDER STATEMENT RELATING TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S

WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH APPOINTMENT OF A RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND ENACTMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONS ONLY IF "THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS... IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED." AT THE SAME TIME, THE ZAMBIANS UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION WHETHER OR NOT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO SMITH.

9. I THINK THERE IS LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE AT THIS POINT. PERHAPS I AM OVERLY PESSIMISTIC. IN ANY CASE, WE WILL HOLD TO THE POSITION THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THE DISCUSSIONS AND THAT OUR EFFORTS AT A SETTLEMENT ARE UNDIMINISHED.

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